

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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LAUSTEVEION JOHNSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

A. NGUYEN, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:12-cv-00538-MMD-WGC

ORDER

This is a prisoner civil rights action filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Before the Court is plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction (dkt. no. 14). Defendants opposed (dkt. no. 16), and plaintiff replied (dkt. no. 18).

Injunctive relief, whether temporary or permanent, is an "extraordinary remedy, never awarded as of right." *Winter v. Natural Res. Defense Council*, 129 S. Ct. 365, 376 (2008). "A plaintiff seeking a preliminary injunction must establish that he is likely to succeed on the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and that an injunction is in the public interest." *Am. Trucking Ass'ns, Inc. v. City of Los Angeles*, 559 F.3d 1046, 1052 (9th Cir. 2009) (*quoting Winter*, 129 S. Ct. at 374). The standard for a permanent injunction is essentially the same as for a preliminary injunction, with the exception that the plaintiff must show actual success, rather than a likelihood of success. See *Amoco Prod. Co. v. Village of Gambell*, 480 U.S. 531, 546 n.12 (1987). However, the Ninth Circuit has recently revived the "serious questions" sliding scale test, and ruled that a

1 preliminary injunction may be appropriate when a plaintiff demonstrates serious  
2 questions going to the merits and the balance of hardships tips sharply in plaintiff's  
3 favor. *Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 613 F.3d 960 (9th Cir. 2010).

4 In the instant case, plaintiff seeks an order mainly directing that he be transferred  
5 from Ely State Prison ("ESP"), that he be given a walking cane (allegedly denied by  
6 ESP personnel due to security regulations), and that he be allowed to socialize,  
7 exercise, shower, and meet with a psychologist and a chaplain for one-on-one  
8 counseling and other mental health treatment. Although plaintiff has set forth allegations  
9 in his complaint that state cognizable claims, plaintiff has not established that he is likely  
10 to succeed on the merits of such claims. The Court also notes that plaintiff states that  
11 several of the conditions he complains about in his motion have been ongoing for fifteen  
12 (15) months or more, which also belies plaintiff's claim that he will suffer irreparable  
13 harm if preliminary injunctive relief is not granted. As such, at this time, plaintiff's motion  
14 for preliminary injunctive relief is denied without prejudice and with leave to renew, if  
15 necessary.

16 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction  
17 (dkt. no. 14) is DENIED without prejudice.

18 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED as follows:

19 1. Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (dkt. no. 1) is  
20 GRANTED; Lausteveion Johnson, Inmate No. 82138, will be permitted to maintain this  
21 action to conclusion without prepayment of the full filing fee. However, plaintiff must pay  
22 an initial installment of the filing fee in the amount of \$44.12. Plaintiff will not be  
23 required to pay fees or costs, other than the filing fee, or give security therefor. This  
24 order granting *in forma pauperis* status shall not extend to the issuance and service of  
25 subpoenas at government expense.

26 2. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915, as amended by the Prisoner Litigation  
27 Reform Act of 1996, the Nevada Department of Corrections shall immediately pay to the  
28 Clerk of the United States District Court, District of Nevada, the \$44.12 initial installment

1 of the filing fee, if sufficient funds exist in the account of Lausteveion Johnson, Inmate  
2 No. 82138. Thereafter, Nevada Department of Corrections shall pay to the Clerk of the  
3 United States District Court, District of Nevada, 20% of the preceding month's deposits  
4 to the plaintiff's inmate account (in months that the account exceeds \$10.00) until the  
5 full \$350 filing fee has been paid for this action. The Clerk shall send a copy of this  
6 order to the attention of the Chief of Inmate Services for the Nevada Department of  
7 Corrections, P.O. Box 7011, Carson City, NV 89702. The Clerk of the Court shall also  
8 send a copy of this order to the Finance Division of the Clerk's Office.

9 3. The movant herein is permitted to maintain this action to conclusion  
10 without the necessity of prepayment of any additional fees or costs or the giving of  
11 security therefor. This order granting leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* shall not  
12 extend to the issuance of subpoenas at government expense.

13 4. The Clerk of the Court shall send plaintiff two (2) copies of this order.  
14 Plaintiff is ordered to make the necessary arrangements to have one (1) copy of this  
15 order attached to the check in the amount of the designated fee, by sending a copy of  
16 the order with the "brass slip" for the amount of the fee to Inmate Services for the  
17 Nevada Department of Corrections.

18 5. The Clerk shall electronically serve a copy of this order, a copy of the  
19 court's Screening Order (dkt. no. 6 ) and a copy of plaintiff's complaint (dkt. no. 7) on  
20 the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Nevada, attention Kat Howe.

21 6. Subject to the findings of the Screening Order, within twenty-one (21) days  
22 of the date of the entry of this order, the Attorney General's Office shall file a notice  
23 advising the Court and plaintiff of: (a) the names of the defendants for whom it accepts  
24 service; (b) the names of the defendants for whom it does not accept service; and (c)  
25 the names of the defendants for whom it is filing last-known-address information under  
26 seal. As to any of the named defendants for whom the Attorney General's Office cannot  
27 accept service, the Office shall file, under seal, the last known address(es) of those  
28 defendant(s) for whom it has such information.

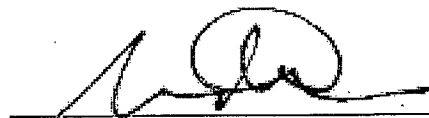
1           7. If service cannot be accepted for any of the named defendant(s), plaintiff  
2 shall file a motion identifying the unserved defendant(s), requesting issuance of a  
3 summons, and specifying a full name and address for the defendant(s). As to any of  
4 the defendants for whom the Attorney General has not provided last-known-address  
5 information, plaintiff shall provide the full name and address for the defendant(s).

6           8. If the Attorney General accepts service of process for any named  
7 defendant(s), such defendant(s) shall file and serve an answer or other response to the  
8 complaint within sixty (60) days from the date of this order.

9           9. Henceforth, plaintiff shall serve upon defendant(s) or, if an appearance  
10 has been entered by counsel, upon their attorney(s), a copy of every pleading, motion  
11 or other document submitted for consideration by the Court. Plaintiff shall include with  
12 the original paper submitted for filing a certificate stating the date that a true and correct  
13 copy of the document was mailed to the defendants or counsel for the defendants. If  
14 counsel has entered a notice of appearance, the plaintiff shall direct service to the  
15 individual attorney named in the notice of appearance, at the address stated therein.  
16 The Court may disregard any paper received by a district judge or magistrate judge  
17 which has not been filed with the Clerk, and any paper received by a district judge,  
18 magistrate judge, or the Clerk which fails to include a certificate showing proper service.

19           IT IS SO ORDERED.

20           DATED THIS 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2013.

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24 MIRANDA M. DU  
25 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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